

# Wordless Picture Books

If you want your kids to be good readers, why share wordless picture books? Isn't reading all about letters and words? Reading is: to inspect and apprehend the meaning of writing or other signs or characters. So, reading a book means gaining meaning from words *and* from pictures. Here are some key reading skills kids build when they read wordless books: 1. Comprehension, 2. Print Concepts, 3. Sequencing, 4. Inferring, 5. Predicting and 6. Vocabulary (studies have shown parents use more complex language when sharing a wordless book with their child than when reading a book with words).

## Caldecott

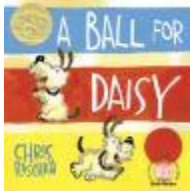
---

J CALD PIN *The Lion & the Mouse*, Jerry Pinkney



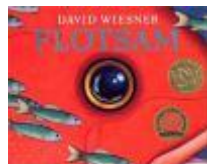
In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable set in the African Serengeti, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when she rescues the King of the Jungle.

J CALD RAS *A Ball for Daisy*, Christopher Raschka



A wordless picture book about all the fun a dog can have with her ball.

J CALD WIE *Flotsam*, David Wiesner



When a young boy discovers a camera on the beach and develops the film, he finds with his microscope many layers of pictures within the photographs.

J CALD WIE *Tuesday*, David Wiesner



Frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses in this book without words.

## Easy

---

E ADA *Animal Stories for Bedtime*, Georgie Adams



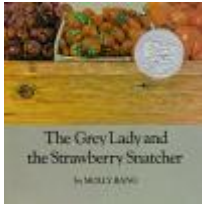
Zebra needs a new house. Where should he build it? On a hill? Next to the ocean? In the desert? His solution is just right to solve his dilemma. Freckly Speckly Hen tries laying her eggs all over the farm until she finds the perfect place. Farmer Bear is rushing to market when his truck gets stuck in the mud. When all the animals rush to help, he learns a valuable lesson in friendship.

E AND *The Treasure Bath*, Dan Andreasen



Have you ever wondered what lies beneath the bubbles in the bathtub? Embark on a magical journey with a little boy as he explores a creature-filled world beneath the sea.

E BAN *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher*, Molly Bang



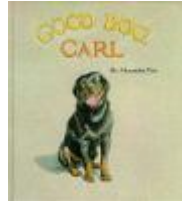
The strawberry snatcher tries to wrest the strawberries from the grey lady but as he follows her through shops and woods he discovers some delicious blackberries instead.

E BAN *Zoom*, Istvan Banyai



A wordless picture book presents a series of scenes, each one from farther away, showing, for example, a girl playing with toys which is actually a picture on a magazine cover, which is part of a sign on a bus, and so on.

E DAY *Good Dog, Carl*, Alexandra Day



Depicts the adventures of an infant girl and her canine babysitter one day while Mother is out. (Followed by more Carl books)

E DEP *Pancakes for Breakfast*, Tomie DePaola



A little old lady's attempts to have pancakes for breakfast are hindered by a scarcity of supplies and the participation of her pets.

E DUD *Hank Finds an Egg*, Rebecca Dudley



Hank finds an egg on the ground while walking in the woods, discovers the nest from which it fell, and tries his best to return it.

E FLE *Sidewalk Circus*, Paul Fleischman



Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Step right up and witness an astounding assemblage of tightrope walkers, strong men, sword swallowers, and clowns. The Garibaldi Circus is coming soon- but for those with clear eyes, the performers may already be in the ring. So get ready to sharpen your vision, and look very closely. A show like you've never seen is about to begin!

E FRA

*Bee & Bird*, Craig Frazier



In this wordless picture book, a bumblebee and a bird embark on a travel adventure.

E GEI

*Hogwash*, Arthur Geisert



Illustrations without words depict the enormous and complicated contraption that Mama Pig uses to get her little piglets clean.

E GOR

*Archie*, Domenica More Gordon



Archie, a fashion-loving dog with a faithful pet of his own, leads a quiet life until he gets a sewing machine and begins creating canine couture that captures attention all over town, even from a queen and her two royal corgis.

E GUT

*Letter Lunch*, Elisa Gutierrez



In this wordless story, a hungry brother and sister, hoping for a tasty alphabet lunch, forage for edible letters in their back yard, at the local market, and through the woods before cooking up a feast of vowel-seasoned consonants to share with friends.

E HOG

*Cool Cat*, Nanny Hogrogian



A story about a cat who turns the drab world around him into a Rousseau-style masterpiece with an old paint box, a troop of helpful animals, and a lot of imagination.

E JAY

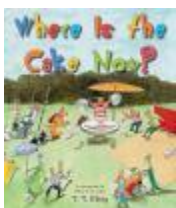
*Welcome to the Zoo*, Alison Jay



In this fanciful visit, Alison Jay summons her unique perspective and sense of humor to create a zoo like no other where more than just the animals are on display. Children will delight in discovering small details and tracking narratives that play out bit by bit. Before the tour is over, kids will meet hippos, giraffes, penguins pursuing a platter of fish, exotic birds, bears, mischievous monkeys, and much more. There's a search-and-find element too: The last spread invites readers to go back and discover a number of amusing details throughout the book.

E KHI

*Where is the Cake Now?*, Tjong Khing The



In detailed, active illustrations, readers watch a group of animals who decide to have a picnic. The animals travel all around the richly rendered countryside, up hills and over rivers, searching for the perfect place to set up their food. But trouble looms—when they finally find the right spot, the all-important cake is missing! Children can help the animals recover their cake in a unique picture book that rewards multiple reads.

E KIN      *Leaf*, Stephen Michael King



As a little boy runs in a panic from a haircut, a bird drops a single seed right on top of the boy's head. Time passes and a leaf soon grows. Instead of trying to rid himself of his new living hairstyle, the boy learns how to make the leaf grow and winds up growing himself.

E LEE      *Mirror*, Suzy Lee

MIRROR  
WIGGOS



In a book without words, a young girl finds joy in interacting with her mirror image, but discord between the two surfaces when they are no longer imitating one another.

E LEE      *Wave*, Suzy Lee



A wordless picture book that shows a little girl's first experiences at the beach, as she goes from being afraid of the roaring waves to playing on the shore while gulls soar overhead.

E LEH      *Museum Trip*, Barbara Lehman



In this wordless picture book, a boy imagines himself inside some of the exhibits when he goes on a field trip to a museum.

E LEH      *Rainstorm*, Barbara Lehman



In this wordless picture book, a boy finds a mysterious key which leads him on an adventure one rainy day.

E LEH      *The Red Book*, Barbara Lehman



A book about a book, a magical red book, without any words, and the friendship that develops around it.

E LEH      *The Secret Box*, Barbara Lehman



In this book without words, a young schoolboy from the early twentieth century hides a candy box with secret instructions in the floorboards of his boarding school for future generations of schoolchildren to find and follow to a mysterious hidden place.

E MAYA *Boy, a Dog, and a Frog*, Mercer Mayer



A boy and his dog go walking in the swamp. They spot a frog in the water. Can they use a net to catch him? (Followed by *Frog, Where Are You?*, *Frog on His Own*, *One Frog Too Many* and *Frog Goes to Dinner*)

E MCC *Four Hungry Kittens*, Emily Arnold McCully



In this wordless story, four kittens share adventures while their mother is away hunting food.

E MCD *South*, Patrick McDonnell



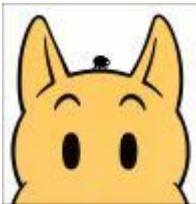
Mooch the cat helps a lonely bird find its flock, which has flown south for the winter.

E MCP *No!*, David McPhail



In this almost wordless picture book, a small boy sets out to deliver a letter and experiences acts of war on his way.

E NEW *Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug*, Mark Newgarden



A wordless picture book about a persistent terrier who spends a day following a bug through his neighborhood.

E NEW *The Boys*, Jeff Newman



A shy boy, seeking the courage to play baseball with the other children in a park, is coaxed out of his shell by some "old timers" sitting nearby who, in turn, discover they are still in the game.

E PET *The Boy & the Airplane*, Mark Pett



A wordless picture book in which a boy comes up with an inventive solution for getting his toy airplane down from the roof.



E RAS *Daisy Gets Lost*, Christopher Raschka



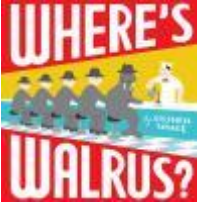
A young dog experiences the fear of being lost and the joys of being found when she becomes separated from her owner.

E ROD *The Chicken Thief*, Beatrice Rodriguez



In this wordless story that is both funny and sweet, a fox steals a hen away from her home. Bear, rabbit, and rooster give chase, but in a twist on the usual children's story, this fox is not a villain. Rather, he tenderly holds hen as he runs into the night.

E SAV *Where's Walrus*, Stephen Savage



Walrus has escaped from the zoo and stays one step ahead of the zookeeper by disguising himself among firefighters, businessmen, high-stepping dancers, and other groups of people.

E SCH *Breakfast for Jack*, Pat Schories



On a busy morning before school, the whole family leaves the house without giving Jack the dog his breakfast. (More books by Pat Schories about Jack E SCH)

E SCH *Jack and the Night Visitors*, Pat Schories



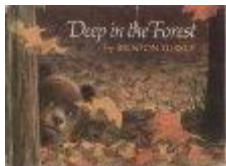
Join the adventures of Jack and the freckle-faced boy in this charming wordless pictorial narrative. Jack and the boy receive a late-night visit from very unique guests, but no one would ever believe the story. The boy tries to trap one, but it's clear that his guests do not want to stay! This book introduces preliterate kids to elements of story—such as character, setting and action—enabling them to better understand language as they begin to read.

E STA *Bluebird*, Bob Staake



In his most beautiful and moving work to date, Bob Staake explores the universal themes of loneliness, bullying, and the importance of friendship. In this emotional picture book, readers will be captivated as they follow the journey of a bluebird as he develops a friendship with a young boy and ultimately risks his life to save the boy from harm. Both simple and evocative, this timeless and profound story will resonate with readers young and old.

E TUR *Deep in the Forest*, Brinton Turkle



In this clever, wordless turnabout on the Goldilocks story, a curious bear cub wreaks havoc in the cabin of a pioneer family out for a walk. Pencil-and-wash pictures bring the forest and Goldilocks' family frontier cabin to life.

E VAR *Chicken and Cat Clean Up*, Sara Varon



When Chicken opens a housekeeping business, his best friend Cat comes to mind as the perfect partner. But Cat is sleepy, clumsy, and makes a lot of mistakes, until he finds his own way to save the day.

E WEI *You Can't Take A Balloon into the Museum of Fine Arts*, Jacqueline Weitzman



While a brother and sister, along with their grandparents, visit the Museum of Fine Arts, the balloon they were not allowed to bring into the museum floats around Boston, causing a series of mishaps at various tourist sites.

E WIE *Free Fall*, David Wiesner



A young boy dreams of daring adventures in the company of imaginary creatures inspired by the things surrounding his bed.

E WIE *Sector 7*, David Wiesner

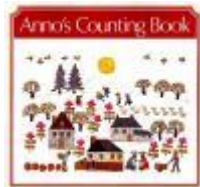


The class bully makes fun of Billy Jones for drawing cows, but Billy gets the last laugh when no one believes the bully's story about talking cows, and a fiddle-playing cat with a talking spoon.

## Easy 123

---

E ANN *Anno's Counting Book*, Mitsumasa Anno



An appealing book on numbers in which the same landscapes are used throughout; houses, birds, trees, & people are added as the seasons progress.

## Easy Dinosaur

---

E THO *Chalk*, Bill Thomson



A rainy day. Three kids in a park. A dinosaur spring rider. A bag of chalk. The kids begin to draw. . . and then . . . magic! The children draw the sun, butterflies, and a dinosaur that amazingly come to life. Children will never feel the same about the playground after they experience this astounding wordless picture book and the power of the imagination.

## Easy Train

---

E LEH      *Train Stop*, Barbara Lehman

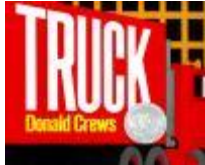


In this wordless picture book, a young girl takes a train and makes a stop at a most unusual place where she has an important task to perform.

## Easy Wheels

---

E CRE      *Truck*, Donald Crews



This picture book traces a truck trip from loading dock to its San Francisco destination.

## Graphic Novel

---

J GN IFY      *If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now*, Ed Briant



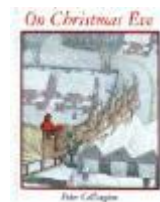
In a story without words, a young boy befriends a playful monster comprised of autumn leaves, who is distraught that the park is being developed into a shopping mall.

J GN OCT      *Octopus Soup*, Mercer Mayer



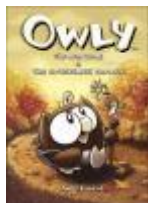
An octopus struggles with misadventure when he leaves home but is relieved to know how and where to find a safe haven.

J GN ONC      *On Christmas Eve*, Peter Collington



Dozens of tiny fairies guide Santa Claus to the home of a little girl who lives in a house without a chimney.

J GN OWL      *Owly*, Andy Runton



The series, which is largely without standard text dialogue, is about the adventures of a gentle owl named Owly who resolves to do good and make friends in his world with the help of his good companions, the clever worm, Wormy, and Scampy, the gluttonous but good hearted chipmunk. While he faces obstacles in the pursuit of that goal, his faith in the goodness in the world is never disappointed.



J GN POL      *The Adventures of Polo*, Regis Faller



Polo the dog sets out from his home and enjoys many adventures, including sailing his boat on top of a whale, roasting hot dogs over a volcano, and taking a ride in a spaceship built from a mushroom. A story told entirely with pictures and no text. (Followed by *Polo: The Runaway Book* and *Polo and the Dragon*)

J GN SNO      *The Snowman*, Raymond Briggs



When his snowman comes to life, a little boy invites him home and in return is taken on a flight high above the countryside.

J GN SUN      *Sunday Love*, Alison Paul



Some things just go together like chocolate and vanilla, Valentines and hearts, Bruno and his one true love. Can you blame him? This is a romance every sweet tooth can relate to . . .

Children especially will love following the action in this black, white, and red adventure that celebrates everyone's favorite dessert.



Updated July 2014